SKY MASTERS

JUDGE PARKER

BLONDIE

BEN BOLT

LIL ABNER

REX MORGAN

ARCHIE

JULIE JONES

POGO

RIP KIRBY

Garden Notes

Wax-Up the Trouble

By M. V. CHESNUT, FRHS

The African violet is not a particularly miffy plant; in fact, it is singularly easy-going and tolerant, which probably accounts for its wide popularity. Nevertheless, it does come down occasionally with an ailment of one kind or another. Some of these are of parasitic origin—bugs or fungus rot organisms—while others are due to improper care.

Probably the most common trouble is the rotting of the older leaf stalks at the point where they touch the rim of the flower pot. You get this only where earthenware pots are used, and it is caused simply by the moisture in the porous pot material, and by chilling due to the evaporation of this moisture.

★ ★ ★

It is becoming common practice these days, due to the prevalence of this trouble, to dip the edge of the flower pot in hot paraffin wax before planting up the violet to coat and waterproof the trouble-making area. Use clean wax for this job, not a bit salvaged from the top of a jelly jar, or you'll get some weird moulds which can be worse than the original stem rotting.

Another trouble, not quite so common, is the rotting of the leaf stalks lower down, at the point where they arise from the crown of the plant. Here again, it is nearly always the older, outer leaves which are first affected, and may be due to one of two causes—a fungus infection or improper watering.

★ ★ ★

Any water which has ever had contact with the soil — water from wells, streams or the city tap — is always charged with minerals, to a greater or lesser degree. If it has a lot of minerals in it, we say it is "hard," and complain because we can't work up a lather with soap, but even when the natural water supply is "soft," it has some minerals in it, and it is the accumulation of these minerals which cause the trouble.

Quite a few violet fans water their plants from the bottom, by pouring a little in the saucer and allowing the soil to soak it up. This water, moving upward through the soil, is evaporated from the surface, leaving its load of minerals behind. In time, these accumulate to the point where a dirty gray deposit forms on the soil surface, and stalk-rotting begins. The trouble is often accentuated by dissolving soluble houseplant fertilizer in the saucer water.

★ ★ ★

The trick here is to use water only from an atmospheric source—rainwater, melted snow, or the defrostings from an electric refrigerator. If fertilizers are given, and I am in favor of moderate feeding for African violets, it should be part of your routine to water occasionally from the top, giving enough to wash away any accumulation of unused fertilizer salts in the soil.

Stem rot due to a fungus infection calls for more drastic treatment. I cleaned up one bad case in my violets by stripping the plant of soil, washing the roots under running water, then cutting away every portion of diseased tissue I could find. The whole plant was disinfected by swishing it around in a deep pink solution of permanganate, then it was repotted into a clean pot with fresh soil, and a bit of peat moss mounded up around the crown. It made an excellent recovery, and is flowering its head off at the moment.

Writer Sympathizes — Everybody's Target

The Queen Can Do No Right

By ROBERT MUSEL

LONDON (UPI) — Madam, you have my sympathy.

When you left your home this (and every) morning your neighbors gave your outfit the most critical going over. They discussed your makeup, clothes, shoes and companions.

They buzzed about your children and how you were educating them.

Some of them thought you were raising your children well.

Some of them opined they were spoiled and pampered little brats.

Your husband got the same unblinking treatment. So did your sister. For that matter so did your mother.

And what did you do about it, ma'am?

Nothing. Absolutely nothing.

That's why, although you are Elizabeth, Queen of Britain, head of the Commonwealth, you have my sympathy. In exchange for your exalted position and secure place in history, you have given away one of the precious rights most cherished by even your humblest subjects.

The right to reply to criticism. The right to defend yourself.

In a kingdom of 50,000,000 and a commonwealth of several times that, it is impossible to please all of the people all the time. No one knows this better than the sovereign who, for example, is flayed by animal lovers if she permits her son, Prince Charles, to attend a fox hunt—and denounced by huntsmen for raising a sissy if she doesn't.

The many millions who regard Queen Elizabeth as a credit to throne and dynasty are hopeful a new era is opening. The recent court action in which an employer of Windsor Castle was stopped from publishing his experiences in the royal household is the first legal counterpunch the royal family has thrown in over a century.

Consider only this incomplete record of fairly recent attacks on the royal family:

Critic, Lord Londonderry — The monarchy is "ludicrous and nauseatingly incongruous in a modern democracy." He deplored the royal family's "toothpaste smiles."

Critic, the League against Cruel Sports—The Queen is "an enemy of animals" because she owns race horses and Prince Charles is being taught to shoot deer.

Critic, the Free Church of Scotland —The Queen should not have contributed to the rebuilding of a Roman Catholic church.

Critic, Roman Catholics — The Queen should have sent a representative to the funeral of Cardinal Griffin, not a letter of condolence.

Critic, the Lord's Day Observance Society—Prince Philip breaks the sabbath by playing polo and Prince Charles, under the influence of his father, is "thoroughly accustomed" to this.

Critic, the Free Church Journal, a British weekly—The Queen is "sold" to the nation like a movie queen and serves as the excuse, for dressing up and other irrelevant gimmicks.

Critic, Dr. Donald Soper of the Methodist Conference — The Queen spends too much time at race tracks.

Critic, the magazine "Music and Musicians" — The Queen doesn't attend enough serious music concerts.

And numberless attacks on her taste in clothes, friends, food, interior decoration, etc., etc., etc.

Still like to "live like a queen?"

Hollywood Today — By Sheilah Graham

Frankie in Love Again?

HOLLYWOOD (NANA)—Is **Frank Sinatra** in love again? During his singing engagement in Las Vegas, Frankie-boy dated a strip-tease showgirl with the improbable name of **Beverly Hills.** He also arranged a screen test for the beauty.

★ ★ ★

France Nuyen, late of Hollywood's "South Pacific," is currently kicking up her frisky heels backstage in her "World of Suzie Wong" hit on Broadway. There's talk that, when France's time is up, her replacement could be the about-to-be-ex-Mrs. **Marlon Brando**—the exquisite **Anna Kashfi.**

★ ★ ★

Sam Spiegel is moving his **Elizabeth Taylor-Vivien Leigh** stager to Europe this summer, mostly London. **Eddie Fisher** will have a singing date at the Palladium at the same time.

★ ★ ★

In addition to giving interviews in New York to promote her "Some Like It Hot" picture, **Marilyn Monroe** will visit key U.S. cities in her first time on the road since becoming a big star.

★ ★ ★

A mix-up in cars at a Beverly Hills restaurant had **Pamela Mason** driving off in **Mary Benny's** Rolls-Royce and **Jack's** wife in **Pamela's.**

Winning Contract

Vul: None

NORTH (D)
♠ Q 2
♡ 9 5
◊ K
♣ Q 10 8 7 6 4 3 2

WEST
♠ J 6 3
♡ 3
◊ Q J 10 9 8 7 4
♣ A 5

EAST
♠ A 7 5
♡ J 8 6 4 2
◊ A 3 2
♣ K 9

SOUTH
♠ K 10 9 8 4
♡ A K Q 10 7
◊ 6 5
♣ J

The bidding:

North	East	South	West
Pass	1 N.T.	Pass	3 ◊
Pass	Pass	4 ◊	Dbl.
5 ♣	Dbl.	5 ♡	Pass
Pass	Dbl.	All Pass	

Opening lead: ◊ Q

At the risk of coaching the Italian and the Argentine teams waiting to start play in the World Championship matches at New York's Hotel Statler-Hilton tomorrow, we publish this deal from the playoff match of last October. It illustrates a swing gained by the weak no-trump bid used by Len Harmon and Ivar Stakgold—but the result was made possible by South's failure to use one of the most effective weapons against that system.

Balanced hands of 11-13 points are opened with one no-trump, regardless of five-card suits. West's three diamond response is pre-emptive, not strength-showing South's reopening cue-bid of four diamonds was risky in view of the likelihood of a club response, and Lazard, who made that choice paid heavily for his temerity.

East won the first trick with the diamond ace, and shifted to a low heart. Declarer won, and trumped his remaining diamond in dummy. With no further entry to dummy, and the imminent danger of being forced, declarer led dummy's low spade and finessed the ten. West won and forced South with a diamond lead. Declarer knocked out the spade ace, but East put West in with a club lead, and discarded his remaining spade while declarer ruffed another diamond. South made two more high trumps. But East got the rest of the tricks for a 900 set.

Against weak no-trump bids, the Landy two-club overcall asking partner to bid a major is the best weapon with a hand like South's. If East passed, North would likewise pass. If East bid three diamonds, North's pass should warn South against further bidding.

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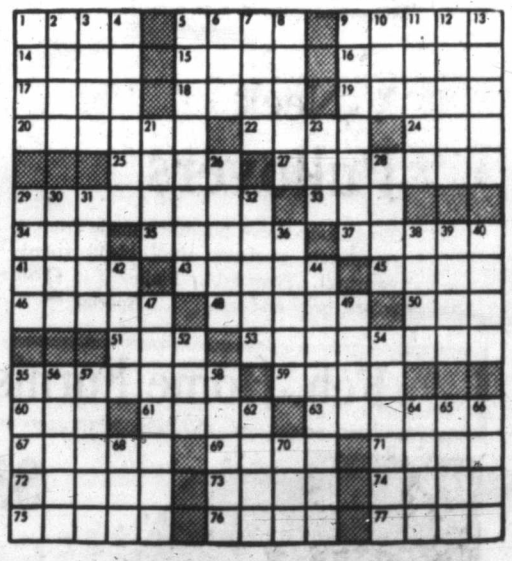
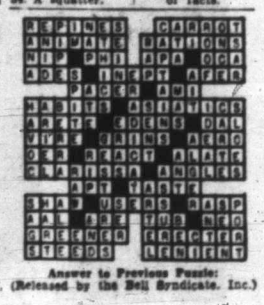
The Daily Cross-Word Puzzle . . .



ACROSS
1. Brewer's yeast.
5. Head coverings.
9. Cleft.
14. Butter substitute.
15. Russian river.
16. Great Lake.
17. Faithful.
18. Estimate.
19. Century plant.
20. Special aptitude.
22. Epic poetry.
24. Golf mound.
25. Body of water (pl.).
27. Pendant ornaments.
29. Talking informally.
33. Cravat.
34. Malay gibbon.
35. Instrument for hurling stones.
37. Walks.
41. Equips with weapons.
43. Extra tire.
45. Mine entrance.
46. Mexican coin (pl.).
48. Silkworms.
50. Girl's name.
51. Allow.
53. Short distance runner.
55. Fast moving animal.
59. Sea eagle.
60. Kind of meat.
61. Decorate.
63. Emits.
67. Herb with aromatic seeds.
69. Depend.
71. Snare.
72. More painful.
73. Flavor.
74. Ireland.
75. Pugs.
76. Nahoor sheep (pl.).
77. Rave.

DOWN
1. To sift as flour.
2. Appellation of Athena.
3. Genuine.
4. Annoy.
5. Reduces.
6. Macaw.
7. Top of head.
8. Slumbered.
9. Framework of car.
10. Embrace.
11. Angry.
12. Work of fiction.
13. Part of leg (pl.).
21. Seines.
23. Cereal grain.
26. Bird.
28. Bristle.
29. Applaud.
30. Rabbit.
31. Equip with weapons.
32. Growls.
36. Complain (colloq.).
38. Prepare for print.
39. Tree.
40. Asterisk.
42. Fish.
44. Ear ornaments.
47. Dos (pl.).
49. Transgressions.
52. Pitch.
54. A squatter.
56. Deep cleft in earth's surface.
58. City of French Indo-China.
57. Turkish title (pl.).
58. Part of sword (pl.).
62. Intend.
64. Genus of auks.
65. Merit.
66. Small barracuda.
68. Place.
70. Collection of facts.



Answer to Previous Puzzle:
(Released by the Bell Syndicate, Inc.)